



**SALUTE**  
to Unsung Heroes







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# Truck Drivers

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we all became acutely aware of the supply chain for the goods and services we use every day.

Look around you: Every item in your house made at least some part of its journey to you — if not all of it — on a truck. Without the men and women who drive those trucks, we wouldn't be able to have many of the conveniences we've come to enjoy.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Drivers typically work three kinds of routes: Dedicated, short-haul and over-the-road.

Dedicated routes mean that the truck works for primarily the same customer with regular routes, schedules and people. Think of your local

grocery store. The drivers that service that store probably run a dedicated route.

Short-haul drivers work on hauls that are 150 miles or less. They may drive multiple routes in a day but rarely spend nights on the road. Over-the-road truckers, or long-haul truckers, take loads long distances and across state and sometimes national borders. They could spend days or weeks on the road at a time.

## HOW DO I BECOME A TRUCK DRIVER?

Most states require you to be at least 21 to drive across state lines, and so do most companies. You'll need to have a regular driver's license with few or no driving violations, then you can get your commercial learner's permit (CLP). Once you have a CLP, you can get behind the wheel of a truck with a qualified CDL driver with you.

You'll get real-life experience that way and

usually need at least two years to qualify for a CDL.

You may want to attend a truck driving school or community college to learn how to handle your rig. Some companies may even reimburse you for the cost. Earning a full CDL depends on your state requirements. You may have to pass a physical exam, pass a training course and a background check.

There are three classifications of CDL: Class A, B and C. Class A is for tractor-trailers, tankers and flatbeds. Class B is for trucks not hitched to a trailer, such as box trucks or buses. Class C is for trucks that handle hazardous materials or 16 or more passengers. You can also earn endorsements that may also come with better pay. Endorsement H is for transporting hazardous materials. N is for operating a tanker. T means you can haul double or even triple trailers. And X is for hauling tankers and hazardous materials.

# 911 Dispatchers

These complete strangers answer your call on what is often one of the worst days of your life.

You've been in an accident, someone is injured or very ill, or there is some other emergency that requires the attention of a first responder.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Dispatchers need to remain calm and give directions to people in stressful situations while getting enough information from them to dispatch appropriate personnel and resources. They must be able to multitask, as dispatchers not only often take calls but must route first-responders where they are needed most.

Because 911 doesn't take a holiday, dispatchers work nights, weekends, holidays and whenever else they're needed. They thrive in high-stress situations, have an above average typing speed, and possibly even speak a second language that's common in their area, such as Spanish.

## HOW TO BECOME A 911 DISPATCHER

Dispatchers are generally required to have at least a high school diploma or GED, and may also have to pass a state or local training course. Some agencies may give preference to candidates who have at least some college



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credits, and many place a premium on customer service experience and telecommunications experience.

You may have to pass a civil service exam, and should expect to clear a background check, drug test and possibly a psychological evaluation. You may have to train for up to 18 months to use emergen-

cy communications systems and learn how the first-responder agencies work together in your area. You may learn basic first aid so that you can walk callers through situations such as performing CPR or using a defibrillator.

Dispatchers should understand how to use different

communication devices, such as those people with hearing impairments use, to take information. Some jurisdictions allow people to text for 911 help; you will be trained on how to use that equipment as well.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Once you're on board with

an agency, you may be required to keep up with technology and trends through continuing education courses. Some agencies may offer or require certifications that will have to be updated from time to time. Be prepared to continue working on your skillset throughout your career as a dispatcher.



# Construction Workers

Our homes, offices, shops and even bus stops and other small buildings that keep us warm, dry and safe were built by construction workers.

These dedicated workers endure all kinds of conditions for decades at a time, keeping millions of people sheltered and safe.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

These jobs are physically demanding. Construction workers perform their jobs at the highest level outside in almost any weather and on schedules that are often not of their making, meaning nights, weekends and holidays are all fair game for work.

There are a wide variety of construction jobs available, and you can specialize in trades such as electric, plumbing, painting and more, depending on what you enjoy doing and the demand in your area.

To start out, you may work as a helper or laborer, a physically taxing job that means you perform tasks as assigned on a construction site, from picking up trash to hauling materials. You'll do this all as you learn



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more about your chosen field and how to perform higher-level tasks. The more experience you have, the more quickly you'll be able to move up (and the more pay you may earn).

## HOW DO I BECOME A CONSTRUCTION WORKER?

Generally, no formal educa-

tion is required, though you may be asked to earn certain licenses and certifications to operate heavy machinery or dangerous tools. A trade school education may help you advance more quickly, though you should expect to get much of your learning done on the clock.

Some trades offer appren-

ticeship programs, where you can train with a qualified professional to teach you the ropes. Your company may pay you while you learn, or may pay for you to join the appropriate trade school program.

If you plan to earn certifications, such as those offered by the American Welding Society or the American Concrete

Institute, you should plan to continue your education throughout your career to keep those certifications current.

It's a good idea, especially if you plan to advance to a supervisory level, to keep abreast of the latest Occupational Safety and Health Administration training.



# Electric Lineworkers

If you've ever lost power for any amount of time, you know the feeling of relief when it is restored. The person responsible for that was probably a lineworker.

Lineworkers (formerly called linemen), install, maintain and repair electrical power lines and telecommunications cables.

Lineworkers climb power poles, inspect and test lines, and run the lines between the poles. They may work below ground, depending on the system, and operate heavy machinery including large trucks and earthmoving equipment.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Most training for an electrical line worker comes on the job, but there are apprenticeships, employer training and some community college programs available.

Many employers require at least a year of algebra in high school, and some ask for trigonometry.

Because you may have to drive a company truck, you may need a good driving record or even a commercial drivers license.

Line work is extremely dangerous and difficult, but usually well compensated and rewarding. You'll be asked to



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work in all kinds of weather, climbing poles, squeezing into manholes and scaling ladders. You'll also deal with electrical loads that can kill, so being able to listen to and carefully follow safety instructions is critical.

## HOW DO I BECOME AN ELECTRICAL LINeworker?

Most companies require at

least a high school diploma or GED.

You may increase your chances of landing a job by completing a lineworker program or associate degree program at your local community college or trade school.

Some companies require an apprenticeship that typically lasts about three years, and you may have to do that on top of previous training from a com-

munity college or trade school. When your apprenticeship is over, you become a journeyman lineworker and may receive a card that certifies you as such.

You can earn additional certifications in safety, rescue training and earthmoving operations. This may include Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hour or 30-hour training. OSHA

10-hour training is for entry-level employees, teaching them the safety basics for high-risk industries, while the 30-hour is a greater depth of training designed for employees with at least some safety responsibility.

At the end of the training course, you'll receive a completion card that should be kept on file with your personnel records.

# Crime Scene Technicians

Just because they have their own franchise of television shows doesn't mean that people have an appreciation for what crime scene technicians deal with daily.

A crime scene technician is a person who works with law enforcement to search for and evaluate evidence at the scene of a crime.

This could include collecting evidence in a way that renders it usable in criminal prosecutions, analyzing data and providing cohesive reports on their findings.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Crime doesn't take a holiday, and neither do crime scene technicians. Crime scene technicians can expect to work nights, weekends and holidays, as needed. You may have to travel, depending on the size of the jurisdiction, and will need to deal with unpleasant environments.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says crime scene technician positions are expected to grow 13% over the next decade, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. The BLS says it expects 2,600 openings for crime scene technicians per year for the next 10 years.



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## HOW DO I BECOME A CRIME SCENE TECHNICIAN?

Crime scene technicians usually need a bachelor's degree in science or criminal justice, Purdue Global says, and may still need to complete on-the-job training. As standards vary from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdic-

tion, Purdue suggests looking into what credentials are required in your area before planning an educational path.

Some helpful skills according to Purdue Global are:

- Analytical skills: Be detail-oriented.
- Communication skills: Technicians write reports and may have to testify about them

in court. They will work as part of a team with other specialists and law enforcement officials.

- Critical thinking skills: Good judgment and logic are important when collecting and analyzing physical evidence such as fingerprints and DNA.
- Math and science skills: Techs must understand natu-

ral sciences and statistics.

"It's about thinking outside the box; thinking as though you're the bad guy. That's what I always did," says Purdue Global's Robert Warnock, an adjunct faculty member and 26-year police veteran. "What is the bad guy going to touch? Where is the bad guy going to walk? That's where you start."



**SALUTE TO UNSUNG HEROES** | IN UNIFORM,

# Military Police

We appreciate police officers and we appreciate our members of the military, but there is an occupation that combines them both, and it's often overlooked. Military police, or MPs, enforce the laws and regulations of a given branch of service on that branch's installations.

This can include controlling traffic, preventing crime, responding to emergencies, participating in antiterrorism and security operations, and even training in corrections and detention.

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Different branches have different qualifications for their MPs. The Army, for instance, requires 10 weeks of basic training followed by 20 weeks of One Station Unit Training and other on-the-job training in police methods. You must have scored at least a 91 on the ASVAB: Skilled Technical exam, be 17-34 years old, a U.S. citizen, have a high school diploma or GED, meet tattoo guidelines, have no major law violations and no medical concerns. Talk to



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your recruiter about the skills and competencies you'll need.

## **HISTORY**

There have been military police all the way back to the Revolutionary War, and they're still used in both combat and peacetime operations. Gen. George Washington in 1776 created the office of provost marshal of the Continental Army to deal with disciplinary issues. The first

provost marshal was William Maroney, who temporarily drew soldiers from other units to establish order when needed.

A permanent military police for the Army, the Military Police Training Department, was established in 1918 during World War I. The force was used to handle prisoners of war and to manage the movements of troops and supplies in the theaters of

operation.

That led to the National Defense Act Amendment of 1920, which made the military police a permanent part of the Army.

Since then, military police have seen combat in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Military police also step in to provide disaster relief and security stateside. Members

of the military police force may also be trained to handle service animals such as explosive detection dogs, search dogs and K9 officers.

The Army's military police investigations are conducted by the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID), and it works with counterparts in other branches as part of a special reaction team for high-risk situations.



# Religious Leaders

More than 70% of Americans report they are religious, according to the Pew Research Center.

That's mostly Christian, but also Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu or another religion. Around 60% of those surveyed attended a religious service at least a few times a year. Those services are led by clergy, who act as counselors, therapists and moderators, and dole out physical and emotional support as called upon by their communities.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A 2019 Pew survey showed that the majority of U.S. adults — around 65% — believe religious leaders have high or very high ethical standards. They also have positive feelings about the ethical behavior of the clergy at their place of worship, and an overwhelming confidence in their religious leaders to give advice about clearly religious matters. However, a growing number of people are choosing to take parenting, mental health or finance questions to other specialists or experts.

Religious leaders need a comprehensive knowledge of philosophy and religion and have excellent leadership and customer service skills, the ability to work well with others, the ability to remain calm in stressful situations, and a



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working knowledge of teaching and educational skills.

## HOW DO I BECOME A RELIGIOUS LEADER?

How to become a religious leader differs from religion to religion and even at different places of worship. Generally, you will need an education of some sort, as well as a person-

al motivation to help your congregation and community at large.

Some churches require an apprenticeship or associate leadership position for a course of time, and you may also be required to complete certifications related to finance, administration, counseling and more. You should

be prepared to periodically continue your education in those fields as standards and your religious community demand it.

Depending on your religious tradition, leadership can be years or even decades in coming. You may have to study either at a university or at a training center for your reli-

gion, including intensive study of teachings and writings related to your faith. You may be asked to spend considerable time alone in contemplation or meditation, work with people in the community, and establish and maintain a mentorship role with a more experienced religious leader in your community.